

Become a Junior Ranger!



Are you are between the ages of 5 and 12? Then invite your family to join you in an unforgettable adventure—the park’s official Junior Ranger Program! You will hike a trail, attend a ranger-led program, and complete fun-filled activities designed for kids your age. Begin with *Yellowstone’s Nature*, the 12-page Junior Ranger paper. You can purchase the paper for \$3 at any park visitor center.

You’ll need at least two days to finish the activities. When you are finished, a ranger will award you an arrowhead-shaped patch. If you are between the ages of 8–12, your patch will “bear” a bear track. You will earn a wolf track if you are between 5–7.

WHAT

Yellowstone Junior Ranger Program

WHO

Children ages 5–12

WHERE

Yellowstone’s Nature, the Junior Ranger activity paper, is available at all visitor centers

FEE

\$3

The National Park Service offers high quality interpretive programs about Yellowstone National Park’s natural and cultural heritage for visitors of all ages and interests.

To find out more about park ranger programs in Yellowstone National Park, refer to the activity supplement in your Yellowstone Today newspaper, or inquire at any visitor center.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

National Park Service

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Yellowstone National Park



Ranger-Led Activities for 2003

Free Ranger Programs

Evening Programs—Walks—Talks

Junior Ranger Program

For children ages 5–12

Ranger Adventure Hikes

Half-day Hikes with a Ranger



Free Ranger-Led Activities

Park rangers offer more than 4,000 free walks, talks, and evening programs each year on subjects as diverse as Yellowstone itself—check out this small sample:

- ◆ Learn about Yellowstone’s restless geologic past and present at the *Yellowstone Geology Talk*.
- ◆ Bring the whole family to share the magic of Yellowstone at Grant Village’s *Ranger Rendezvous*, a program designed for the young and young at heart.
- ◆ Take a morning stroll to observe birds and other wild animals in Hayden Valley on the *Wildlife Watching—Birds and Beasts at Breakfast* walk.
- ◆ Experience the natural and cultural history behind the scenery of the Lower Falls by *Walking the Canyon Rim*.
- ◆ Explore the fascinating history of America’s first national park at Fort Yellowstone on Mammoth’s *Exploring Yellowstone’s Past* walk.
- ◆ Enjoy the warmth of a traditional campfire while you learn about Yellowstone’s wonders at an *Evening Program*, offered at many park campgrounds.

Park rangers offer these and dozens of other exciting programs each week in Yellowstone.

WHERE & WHEN

Check the center section of your *Yellowstone Today* newspaper for times and locations.

FREE

Ranger Adventure Hikes

Explore Yellowstone on a guided half-day hike with a ranger! Tickets available at Albright (Mammoth Hot Springs), Old Faithful, Grant, Fishing Bridge, and Canyon visitor centers.

Gem of the Rockies Mondays & Thursdays

Garnet Hill lies at the heart Yellowstone’s famed Northern Range, home to vast herds of wildlife and beautiful meadows. Hike through Pleasant Valley and along Elk Creek and the Yellowstone River on this “gem” of a trail.

Area of Park Tower/Roosevelt
Difficulty Moderate (Elevation gain: 300 ft/90 m)
Duration 6–6.5 hours
Total Distance 7.5 miles/12 km
Type of Trail Loop; stagecoach dirt road and maintained trail. May include short off-trail sections.

Scenic Snow Pass Wednesdays

Hike among the strange, jumbled boulders of the Hoodoos, ascend Snow Pass through groves of aspen and Douglas-fir, then revel in the mountain scenery and wildflowers of the Gallatin Range.

Area of Park Mammoth Hot Springs
Difficulty Strenuous (Elevation gain: 550 ft/170 m)
Duration 5.5–6 hours
Total Distance 6.8 miles/10.9 km
Type of Trail Loop; maintained trail. Hikers afraid of heights may be uncomfortable on a short stretch with a sharp dropoff.

Trails to the Temple Tuesdays

Temple Mountain awakens the spirit with its peaceful forests and panoramic views. Also called Clagett Butte, Temple Mountain will be our guide as we explore the aspen and evergreen forest, and gain superb views of Mammoth.

Area of Park Mammoth Hot Springs
Difficulty Strenuous (Elevation gain: 1200 ft/370 m)
Duration 5–6 hours
Total Distance 4.8 miles/7.7 km
Type of Trail Loop; maintained trail

Lost Lake Journey Fridays

Lose yourself in the peace of Lost Lake and return refreshed by dramatic views, exquisite meadows, and the quiet lake along this enchanting trail.

Area of Park Tower/Roosevelt
Difficulty Moderate to Strenuous (Elevation gain: 300 feet/93 m)
Duration 5 to 5.5 hours
Distance 4.5 mi/7.2 km
Type of Trail Loop; maintained trail

WHEN

June 16 to August 30
8 AM (7:30 AM for Lone Star Stroll)

FEE

\$15 Adults (Ages 16+) ; \$5 Ages 7–15
Free for ages 6 and under

Shoshone Lake Discovery Wednesdays & Saturdays

Follow DeLacy Creek through lush meadows full of wildflowers and wildlife to the pebbly shore of Shoshone Lake, the largest backcountry lake in the United States and a beautiful destination for this backcountry hike.

Area of Park Between Old Faithful & West Thumb
Difficulty Moderate (Elevation gain: 200 ft/60 m)
Duration 4.5–5 hours
Total Distance 6 miles/9.7 km
Type of Trail Out and back; maintained trail

Lone Star Stroll Thursdays

Walk along the Firehole River and visit Lone Star Geyser, one of Yellowstone’s hidden treasures. Lone Star is an active geyser with a massive geyser cone that erupts a sparkling jet of steaming water every few hours.

Area of Park Old Faithful
Difficulty Easy (Elevation gain: 40 ft/12 m)
Duration 4.5 hours
Total Distance 4.8miles/7.7 km
Type of Trail Out and back; paved path

Mudpot Special Fridays

Pocket Basin reveals a close-up view of colorful hot springs and bubbling mudpots. Experience the wonders of this dynamic geologic hot spot as we explore this backcountry thermal area along the famous Firehole River.

Area of Park Old Faithful
Difficulty Moderate (Elevation gain: 40 ft/12 m)
Duration 4–4.5 hours
Total Distance 3 miles/4.8 km
Type of Trail Out and back; maintained trail and off-trail travel

Mallard Lake Meander Tuesdays

Journey past Pipeline Hot Springs and through rolling hills of lodgepole pine toward picturesque Mallard Lake. Look for waterfowl swimming and diving on this small, quiet lake nestled in the woods.

Area of Park Old Faithful
Difficulty Moderate to Strenuous (Elevation gain: 825 ft/251 m)
Duration 5 hours
Total Distance 6.6 miles/10.6 km
Type of Trail Out and back; maintained trail